

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /081 W

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R 072003Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 781

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOR, US, UR, GE, GW

SUBJECT: ABRASIMOV CALLS ON FRG REPRESENTATIVE GAUS

1. FRG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE GAUS VISITED ME MAY 5 TO  
PROVIDE AN ACCOUNT OF HIS MEETING WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR  
ABRASIMOV ON APRIL 28. THIS MEETING CONSTITUTED AMBASSADOR  
ABRASIMOV INITIAL CALL ON GAUS. IT LASTED AN HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES

2. GAUS SAID THAT ABRASIMOV'S REMARKS BOILED DOWN TO TWO  
MAIN POINTS: (1) THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT " HAS IN SOME  
WAYS BEEN A SIX-POWER AGREEMENT;" AND (2) THE FRG SHOULD  
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
INCREASING TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

3. ABRASIMOV'S POINT ABOUT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WAS  
PREFACED BY A REMARK THAT THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATION OF  
THIS AGREEMENT, HONECKER HAD BEEN KEPT APPRISED OF THE  
NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE WESTERN POWERS HAD STAYED IN  
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WITH THE FRG. THE AGREEMENT THUS WAS IN REALITY A SIX-POWER AGREEMENT. THE SOVIET UNION MADE A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS TO REACH AGREEMENT. THE WEST SHOULD RESPECT THE NEED TO LIVE UP TO THIS AGREEMENT. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EEC VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN WEST BERLIN, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS IN VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT. THE SOVIET UNION WILL BE OBLIGED TO RESPOND TO FURTHER VIOLATIONS IN A "CORRECT AND MEASURED WAY". ABRASIMOV TOLD GAUS THAT IF HE "FORESAW DIFFICULTIES", HE SHOULD DISCUSS THEM BEFOREHAND WITH ABRASIMOV WHO SAID OF HIMSELF THAT HE HAS "GOOD CONNECTIONS WITH PARTY OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW".

4. COMMENT BY GAUS: GAUS TOLD ME THAT DESPITE STRONG REMARKS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST BERLIN, ABRASIMOV REMAINED EXTREMELY COURTEOUS AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT. THE REFERENCE TO HIS CONNECTIONS IN MOSCOW WAS REPEATED THREE OR FOUR TIME. "I AM A GOOD ADDRESS", HE SAID AT ONE POINT. GAUS SAID THAT WHILE ABRASIMOV DID NOT MENTION WEST BERLIN SPECIFICALLY AS A SUITABLE TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION SHOULD THERE APPEAR TO BE DIFFICULTIES AHEAD, IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS IS WHAT HE MEANT. GAUS ALSO BELIEVES THAT ABRASIMOV WAS INDIRECTLY SUGGESTING A COMPLEMENTARY ROLE REGARDING WEST BERLIN MATTERS FOR THE GDR IN THE CONTEXT OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. GAUS(S RESPONSE WAS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT WAS PRECISELY WHAT THE PHRASE IMPLIES: NAMELY, A MATTER BETWEEN THE FOUR WARTIME VICTORS, GAUS SAID HE DID NOT TAKE ABRASIMOV UP CONCERNING THE AMBASSADOR'S CONNECTION IN MOSCOW.

5. ABRASIMOV'S DISCUSSION OF HIS SECOND MAIN POINT, THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO THE FRG IN EXPANDING TRADE WITH THE USSR, RESTED ON THE THESIS THAT THE WESTERN WORLD HAS ITS TROUBLES AND THE TIME IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE FRG TO CONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF EXPANDED TRADE WITH THE USSR.

6. ABRASIMOV DID NOT REFER TO CURRENT INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS AT ANY TIME, ACCORDING TO GAUS. HE DID, HOWEVER, NOTE THAT BREZHNEV WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FORTHCOMING

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VISIT OF BRANDT TO MOSCOW, AND PLANNED TO DISCUSS BROAD POLITICAL ISSUES WITH THE FORMER GERMAN CHANCELLOR. ABRASIMOV MUSED THAT THE TEAM OF BRANDT AND SCHEEL HAD BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE, LEAVING IT UNSAID THAT THE SOVIETS CONSIDER THE PRESENT GERMAN CHANCELLOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER LESS TO THEIR LIKING. ABRASIMOV ALSO IMPLIED THAT HIS PREDECESSOR, YEFREMOV, HAD NOT BEEN FULLY UP TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIS POSITION IN EAST BERLIN.

7. GAUS'S EVALUATION OF THI CONVERSATION IS THAT ABRASIMOV'S CURRENT TACTIC IS TO TRY TO ENGAGE AND DIVIDE THE ALLIES IN EAST BERLIN ON MATTERS AFFECTING WEST BERLIN. (I HAD INFORMED GAUS EARLIER OF ABRASIMOV'S ATTEMPT TO DRAW ME INTO A DISCUSSION OF WEST BERLIN AND THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WHEN HE CALLED ON ME. (BERLIN 5423). GAUS NOTED THE DIFFERENT APPROACH BY ABRASIMOV TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR (BERLIN 5464) IN HIS CALL ON DE CHALVRON.)

8. IN GAUS'S VIEW THERE IS ALSO A MEASURE OF RIVALRY BETWEEN ABRASIMOV HOPING TO INVOLVE THE FRG, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN EAST BERLIN, NOT ONLY IN WEST BERLIN MATTERS, BUT IN BROADER CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING THE FRG SUCH AS TRADE. A CONCOMMITANT GOAL, IN GAUS'S VIEW, IS THAT OF ATTRIBUTING TO THE GDR A LEGITIMATE ROLE UNDER FOUR-POWER AGREEMENTS IN MATTERS AFFECTING WEST BERLIN. COOPER

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